

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Luu at the telephone interview held October 6, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Losch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,054,870); and claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yoshimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,989). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, none of the applied references disclose or suggest an optical wiring circuit or an optical electric wiring apparatus that includes at least a light diffusing member that is disposed at least at an end of the planer waveguide, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12.

The Examiner agreed during the telephone interview that the claims distinguish over Losch.

Moreover, Yoshimura teaches an optical circuit system that removes at least a portion of a light power source corresponding to at least one type of output voltage of an IC board or opto-electric element and produces an optical signal wherein the left power source is an optical waveguide into which light has been introduced (Abstract).

During the telephone interview, Examiner Luu stated that Fig. 64 of Yoshimura discloses a scattering layer that could be construed as a light diffusing member. However, the scattering layer on Fig. 64 of Yoshimura is not disposed at least at an end of the planer waveguide, as recited in the claimed invention. As such, independent claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and

12, and their dependent claims, are patentable over Yoshimura. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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